

The Romulus News

MARCH 10, 2006 – MARCH 23, 2006

"the little paper"

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 16

Timely Tidbits ...

AV Applications Won't Be Sent Automatically

Due to recent rulings by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Mary Beth Kelly, Romulus senior citizens and other residents currently on the City's "absentee-voter roll" will have to contact the Clerk's Office if they wish to receive an absentee ballot application for the May 2 school election.

Judge Kelly's permanent injunction enjoining clerks from sending AV applications that have not been specifically requested for a particular election was issued last year, following controversy over former Detroit City Clerk Jackie Currie's practice of sending out unsolicited AV applications, in violation of state law (Michigan Compiled Laws Section 168.759).

The fact that Romulus City Clerk Linda Choate's absentee-voter roll consisted solely of residents who expressly asked to be put on a "permanent list" makes no difference, according to Kelly; it can no longer be used as a basis for sending out AV applications.

Voters wishing to request an absentee ballot for the May 2 election should contact the Clerk's Office in writing (11111 South Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174) or by telephone (734-942-7540).

Walk Promotes Teen Obesity Awareness

Romulus High School student Ryan Green is filling some of the requirements for his Senior Project by organizing a walk to promote awareness of teenage obesity.

Green – who hopes that his "Walk for Awareness" will spark further community efforts to battle this rapidly growing health problem – appeared before the Romulus City Council on Monday, February 27, to publicize the event.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the walk, which will take place from 12 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 12, on the walking track east of Olive between Bibbins and Grant. Your support of this worthwhile program is encouraged. □

Councilman John Barden "Ready To Move Forward" After OUIL Guilty Plea

Following his plea of "guilty" on a charge of OUIL (Operating Under the Influence of Liquor), Romulus City Councilman John Barden says that he is ready to put the incident behind him and move forward with his work for the community.

Barden was arrested on January 16 by Wayne County Sheriff deputies, who found him slumped over the wheel of a running vehicle – a white 2005 Cadillac – that was pulled over to the side of Hamilton Street in Highland Park. A preliminary breath test indicated a blood alcohol level of 0.09%; a second test read 0.22%. Michigan's legal limit is 0.08%.

On March 1, Barden appeared in 30th District Court (Highland Park) for a pretrial hearing, entering his "guilty" plea at that time. His sentencing is set for March 15.

Barden, who was elected to his first term on the Romulus City Council last November, is also involved in government at the county level. As an executive assistant to Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, he is assigned to the Department of Health and Community

Services, and is also a member of the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency.

Recently, Barden talked to *The Romulus News* about the OUIL incident.

"I want to begin by offering my sincere apologies to everyone," he said.

"Last December, my older brother Milton – with whom I was very close – passed away. On the night of my arrest, I had been thinking about him a lot, and I must have drunk more wine than I realized before starting for home.

"When I noticed that I was feeling intoxicated," he continued, "I pulled my car over to the side of the road because I didn't want to put the public in danger. I left the engine running because it was cold outside. I just wanted to rest until I was sober enough to drive safely home."

Barden admitted that his drinking-and-driving was a serious mistake, but hopes that people won't judge him too harshly for erring in his grief.

"This is the first time I've ever been arrested – for drunk driving or anything else," he said. "My record has always been exemplary."

John Roach, press secretary for the



Councilman John Barden

Wayne County Sheriff's Department, confirmed that Barden's OUIL was a "first offense" in Wayne County.

When asked what effect, if any, the arrest will have on his performance as a government official, Barden replied that his commitment to work diligently for the people of Romulus and Wayne County will continue unchanged.

continued on page 2

Court Members Attend RHS "Coming Home" Dance



Among those who attended Romulus High School's annual "Coming Home" Dance were Coming Home King Darius Osborne (third from right), Queen Christina Gillespie (fourth from right), and Court members (from left) Noah Sanchez, Anisa Rakic, Kevin Stobbe, Antionice Hearst, and Tiffani Cannon.

Letter to the Editor

Romulus Resident Says Anti-EDS Lawsuit Money Could Be Better Spent

To the Editor:

I have one thing to say to you concerning your February 24, 2006 editorial about the Environmental Disposal Systems hazardous-waste injection well. It is: thank you.

Why this has been such a long process, I don't know. The money that the City spent on stopping this could have been used elsewhere and helped more.

Good job, and thank you!

Sincerely,
Jeff Kotlarek
Romulus

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether or not they are published in the paper.

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity. □

Barden Arrested

continued from page 1

Although some Romulus residents are questioning Barden's fitness to continue as a councilman, there appears to be no legal bar to his service. According to Section 4.3 of the Romulus City Charter, "[A] vacancy shall be deemed to exist in any elective office when such officer ... is convicted by a Court of competent jurisdiction of a felony ..." Since Barden's OUIL is categorized as a first offense, it is a misdemeanor. □

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Meetings Maintain Good Relations



Ed Clark (front, third from left), Human Resources Department director for the Romulus Community Schools, recently met with state and local AFSCME (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees) members, including: (from left) front – Jeanette DiFlorio (representative, AFSCME Council 25), Kim Wells (president, Local 64), and Alice Chubb (chief steward, Local 64); back – Don Makowski, Becky Chapman, and Curtis Jackson (members, Local 64). According to district spokesperson Dick Kruse, the parties meet frequently to maintain positive workplace/labor relations.

The Romulus News

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Editor
"Senior News" Columnist
Sales Representative/Distribution Manager

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The Police Blotter

Thanks to Sergeant Bryan Cozzaglio for submitting the following summary of the Romulus Police Department's significant activity from Monday, February 20, through Sunday, February 26. (Information is in the following format: date, time, type of call, and general location.)

Data for the week of Monday, February 27, through Sunday, March 5, was unavailable at press time.

Monday, February 20

- 11:27 a.m. – Larceny (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 12:46 p.m. – Panic Alarm (block of 28200 Hillsbriar Dr.)
- 2:59 p.m. – Recovered Stolen Vehicle (block of 37400 Huron River Dr.)
- 5:06 p.m. – Disturbance (block of 5820 Middlebelt)
- 7:01 p.m. – Breaking & Entering (B&E) (block of 8290 Wahrman)
- 7:26 p.m. – Disturbance (block of 9650 Wayne)
- 9:51 p.m. – Family Trouble (block of 15000 Pond Way)
- 10:19 p.m. – Disturbance (block of 15000 Mountain Way)

Tuesday, February 21

- 6:52 a.m. – B&E (block of 9890 Wayne)
- 9:25 a.m. – Assault & Battery (A&B) (block of 5840 Merriman)
- 10:04 a.m. – Abandoned Vehicle (block of 5930 Fourth)
- 10:49 a.m. – Larceny (block of 30500 Flynn Dr.)
- 11:05 a.m. – Death Investigation (block of 7050 Chippewa)
- 11:54 a.m. – Property Damage/Malicious Destruction of Property (PD/MDOP) (block of 5930 Chamberlain)
- 2:24 p.m. – Man with a Weapon (block of 38500 Beverly)
- 3:48 p.m. – Unlawful Driving Away of an Automobile (UDAA) (block of 28500 N. Maple)
- 5:16 p.m. – Disturbance (block of 15000 Brandt)
- 8:01 p.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 9650 Washington)
- 8:40 p.m. – Family Trouble (block of 28200 Heather Way)

Wednesday, February 22

- 1:34 a.m. – Fight (block of 7000 Merriman)
- 2:10 a.m. – Overdose (block of 39000 Wade)
- 8:53 a.m. – Larceny (block of 16500 Mary Grace Ln.)
- 12:30 p.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 34800 Michele)

- 2:46 p.m. – Fight (block of 9700 Ozga)
- 3:05 p.m. – Threats (block of 30100 Eureka)
- 3:10 p.m. – B&E (block of 15500 Eureka)
- 6:26 p.m. – Juvenile Complaint/Runaway (JC/R) (block of 36500 Goddard)
- 7:22 p.m. – B&E (block of 15000 Streamway)
- 7:35 p.m. – JC/R (block of 35500 Garner)
- 9:49 p.m. – Threats (block of 27400 Eureka)
- 9:50 p.m. – Larceny (block of 5870 Heyer)
- 11:31 p.m. – Larceny (block of 9000 Wickham)

Thursday, February 23

- 1:01 a.m. – Man with a Weapon (block of 28300 Bonanza)
- 5:34 a.m. – Larceny (block of 32800 Sand Piper Dr.)
- 6:53 a.m. – Larceny (block of 32600 Gateway Dr.)
- 8:26 a.m. – Larceny (block of 15500 Oakwood Dr.)
- 8:27 a.m. – Death Investigation (block of 30400 Leroy)
- 2:27 p.m. – Threats (block of 6560 Dexter)
- 4:05 p.m. – Fight (block of 36500 Goddard)
- 4:57 p.m. – Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Complaint (block of 13000 Hannan)
- 4:58 p.m. – Larceny (block of 5930 Middlebelt)
- 6:51 p.m. – Fight (block of 15000 Brandt)

Friday, February 24

- 1:31 a.m. – Disturbance (block of 15800 Elm Ct.)
- 4:29 a.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 29000 Airport Dr.)

- 3:23 p.m. – Family Trouble (block of 6970 Ranger)
- 4:43 p.m. – JC/R (block of 15800 Isabelle)
- 4:47 p.m. – UDAA (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 7:05 p.m. – Larceny (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 11:22 p.m. – Death Investigation (block of 6330 Heyer)

Saturday, February 25

- 12:49 a.m. – Mental Incapacitation (block of 37200 McBride)
- 3:30 a.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 35000 Michele)
- 3:59 a.m. – Death Investigation (block of 13500 Cogswell)
- 5:08 a.m. – Minors in Possession (block of 38700 Navajo)
- 3:58 p.m. – Death Investigation (block of 32100 Newcastle)
- 5:40 p.m. – Harassment Complaint (block of 8210 Merriman)
- 6:26 p.m. – B&E (block of 8270 Wickham)
- 6:45 p.m. – UDAA (block of 15000 Mountain Way)

- 8:16 p.m. – Family Trouble (block of 9400 Barry)
- 10:08 p.m. – Mental Incapacitation (block of 7100 Middlebelt)

Sunday, February 26

- 12:03 p.m. – Family Trouble (block of 36800 Ecorse)
- 12:21 p.m. – ORV Complaint (block of 7040 Shawnee)
- 1:32 p.m. – Threats (block of 5880 Metro)
- 2:02 p.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 9600 Middlebelt)
- 2:51 p.m. – JC/R (block of 36500 Goddard)
- 4:31 p.m. – Trespassing (block of 27700 Eureka)
- 9:28 p.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 8280 Wayne) □

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Romulus Adult Education Recognizes Midterm Graduates



Romulus Adult Education high-school graduates and GED recipients who took part in the recent midterm commencement ceremony included: (from left) front – Alex Russell, Rachael Cliff, Taja Kalic Rupert, Timothy Witten, Katelyn Straight, and Ester Villegas; back – Karina Rios, Jacklyn Liford, Brandy Testa, Tracey Proctor, Cynthia Caruana, Teresa White, LaShelle Houke, Stephen Baker, Joshua Rice, Amanda Ridley, Michelle Jones, and Kurt Kotlarszyk.



Officials joining Adult Education director Sharman Spieser (back, left) at the ceremony included: (from left) front – Joel R. Carr, superintendent; State Senator Ray Basham; and State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood; back – Romulus Board of Education trustee Thomas Kuderik and Adult/Community Education director Bill Musham.

Sharman Spieser, director of Adult Education, said she was very pleased with her program's recent midterm commencement ceremony. A number of special guests – including State Senator Raymond E. Basham, State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood, and Romulus Community Schools superintendent Joel R. Carr – attended the

ceremony, which recognized the program's high-school graduates and GED recipients.

Graduates spoke of the important role that their diplomas will play in their future career opportunities, and thanked the Romulus Community Schools for providing them with a second chance for success. Many of the graduates

brought family members and children to the ceremony to help them celebrate their achievements.

"I continue to be impressed with the accomplishments of our Adult Education and GED graduates, and the enthusiastic support that they receive from their families and friends," said Carr. "This is a very important program for our residents."

Other ceremony highlights included Director Spieser's presentation of recognition certificates to Carr, Basham, and Hopgood for their continued support of adult education and GED programs in Romulus Community Schools and the State Legislature.

Graduates and guests were invited to a reception after the ceremony. □

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Growth Works Honors CHS Principal Wilkerson

Growth Works, Inc. – a private, non-profit organization that has served western Wayne County youths and their families for more than 30 years – has selected Romulus Community High School principal Al Wilkerson as one of its 2006 Community Award winners.

Wilkerson, who will soon be retiring after a 30-year career with the Romulus Community Schools, was honored at Growth Works' 16th Annual Recognition and Award Dinner, held on February 2 at the Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center. He was lauded for his "efforts aimed at improving the lives of young people" using a "wraparound" approach that he coordinated between the Romulus school district and Growth Works in order to meet the needs of students with academic and/or behavioral problems.

Wilkerson is noted for his ability to focus on young people's strengths and to work with students who have difficulty in a traditional school setting. He has helped many Growth Works student clients – including his current dean of students, Reginald Grantham – choose successful career paths.

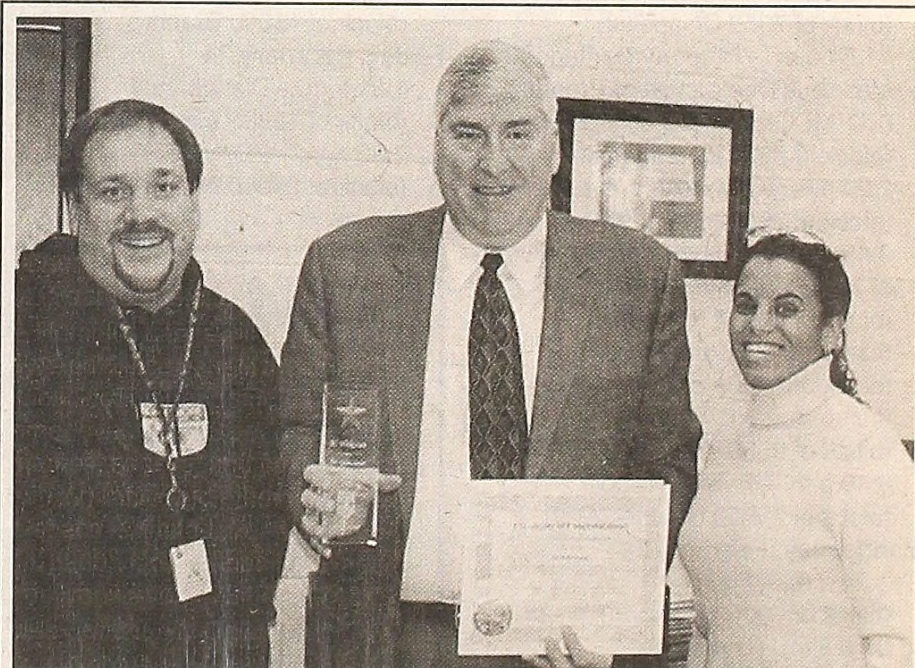
Other work for which Wilkerson was recognized included his many years of dedicated effort as a coach, counselor, and mentor to Romulus-area students. He also helped numerous athletes from

Michigan and across the country to prepare for their college entrance exams.

On March 3, Wilkerson celebrated the 20th anniversary of Romulus High School's 1986 State Class "A" Boys' Basketball Championship. As the team's head coach that year, he played a big

part in the Eagles' success.

"For three decades, Al Wilkerson has been an exemplary teacher, counselor, and administrator," said Dick Kruse, district spokesperson. "We're pleased to have Growth Works recognize his contributions to the local community." □



Romulus Community High School principal Al Wilkerson (center) was congratulated by Growth Works, Inc. representatives Ryan Fisher (left) and Kim Adamczyk for being one of the organization's 2006 Community Award winners.

RHS Students Win 32 Medals at District Solo & Ensemble Fest

Romulus High School students won a total of 32 medals at the recent District 12 Solo & Ensemble Festival, held at Livonia's Franklin High School. RHS band director Henry James said he was pleased with his students' performances as well as all the extra practice and hard work they did to prepare for the annual festival.

The eight first-division events were: Joshua Baxter (snare drum solo); Adam DeLay (snare drum solo); Kyle Sherwood (snare drum solo); Joshua Baxter, Adam DeLay, Alex Lipkowski, Jonathan McLachlan, Brian Rodger, Kyle Sherwood, and Kevin Stobbe (percussion septet); Kyle Sherwood (alto saxophone solo); Jessica Mills (flute solo); Melissa Dufore and Holly Schonscheck (flute duet); and Rachel Arthur, Shaniya Dye, and Tanisha Hubbard (flute trio).

Ten second-division events were: Derek Bennett (snare drum solo); Kevin Stobbe (snare drum solo); Thomas Rutherford (baritone solo); Brian Rodger and Thomas Rutherford (trumpet and trombone duet); Christopher Floyd and Melissa Griffith (trumpet duet); Gary Nemeth (alto saxophone solo); Dakota Watson (tenor saxophone solo); Jessica Donald and Jessica Mills (flute and clarinet duet); and Melissa Dufore, Holly Schonscheck, and Ashley Skura (flute trio).



Among the 20 Romulus High School students who won a total of 32 medals at the District 12 Solo & Ensemble Festival were: (from left) front – Jessica Donald, Rachel Arthur, Jessica Mills, Dakota Watson, Thomas Rutherford, and Kyle Sherwood; back – Brian Rodger, Kevin Stobbe, Adam DeLay, Jonathan McLachlan, Joshua Baxter, and Alex Lipkowski.

First-division winners are eligible to enter the State Solo & Ensemble Festival and compete for ratings at a higher level of competition. Soloists can per-

form proficiency tests that include 50 points for the solo, 25 points for scales from memory, and 25 for sight-reading.

The three levels of proficiency tests

progressively increase in difficulty, with only seniors eligible to attempt proficiency three.

Congratulations to all. □

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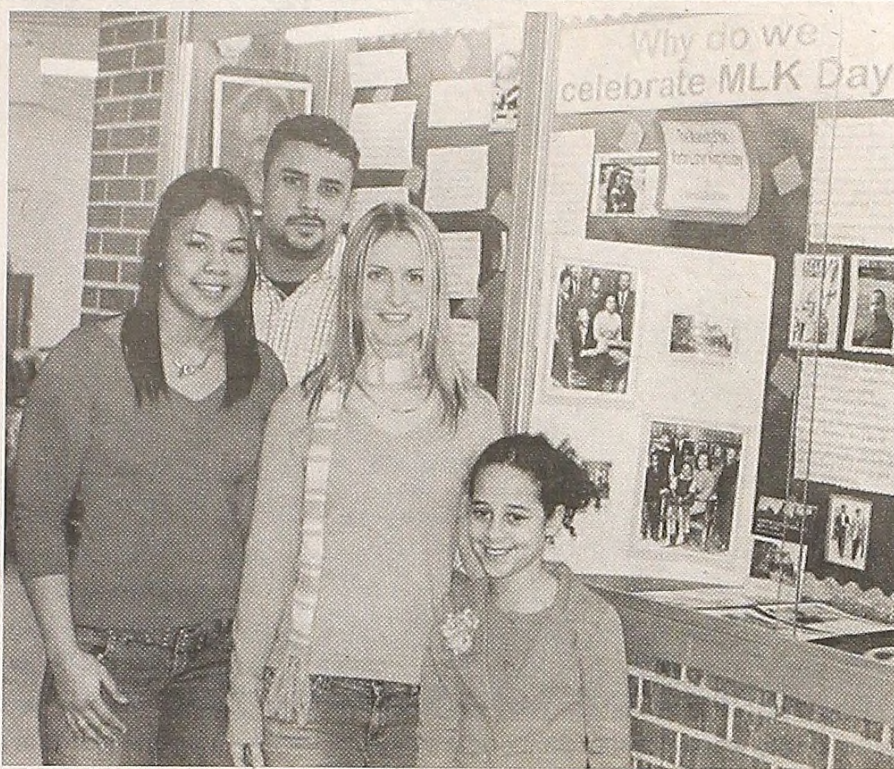
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Merriman Soul-Food Dinner Features Blake's Storytelling



Among the guests who brought some of the delicious fare served at Merriman Elementary School's recent Soul-Food Dinner were (from left) Rachel Crump, Anthony Crump, Jamie McLaughlin, and Kaylen Williams.

A recent Soul-Food Dinner/Storytelling Night hosted by Merriman Elementary School proved to be an enjoyable and educational outing for students and their parents.

Principal Shellie Moore was happy to welcome her guests to the eventful evening, which highlighted African and African-American history and culture. Everyone enjoyed the delicious potluck dishes as well as the entertainment provided by storyteller extraordinaire Jacqueline Blake.

Blake, a Romulus resident, travels all over the United States, presenting workshops on African history. Her presentations feature African attire, music, and an extensive collection of books, which are also available for sale. Her most recent tour included stops in Atlanta and New York City.

Blake's visit to Merriman for the Soul-Food Dinner was a big hit with both parents and students, who were enthralled by her storytelling skills and the many books she brought to share. □

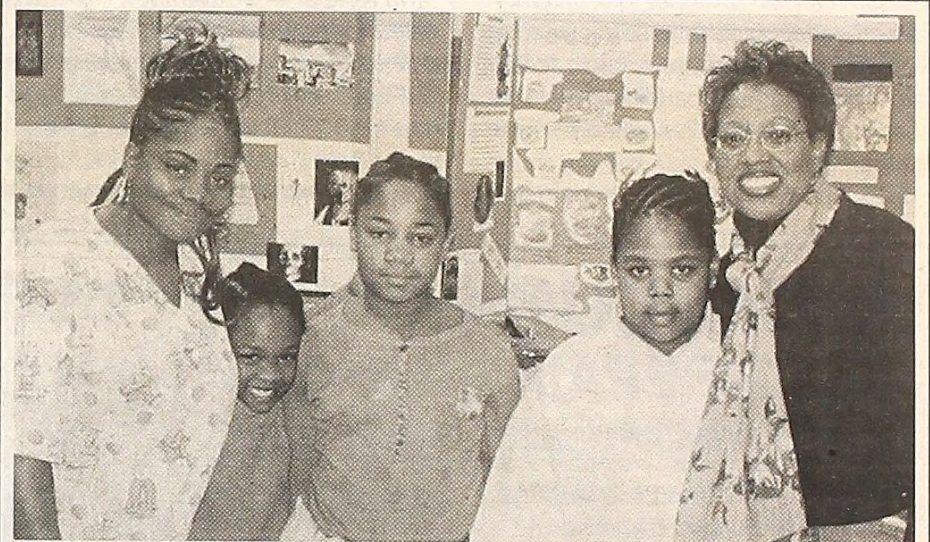


Storyteller extraordinaire Jacqueline Blake (left) entertained the staff members, parents, and students who attended the Soul-Food Dinner. Her appreciative listeners included: (from left) front – Ashley Luttmann; back – Marquala Woodward and Gabrielle Walton.

International Night



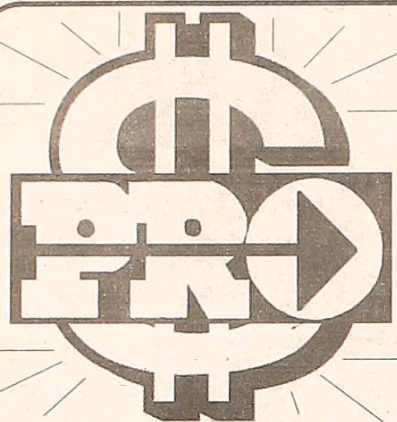
Romulus Elementary's recent International Night featured educational displays about countries around the world. Among those who took in the exhibits about Kenya and Italy were: (from left) front – Jade Valez and Rachel Soard; back – Shawn Dickson (first-grade teacher), Debbie Collins, Keyoni Collins, and Amy Soard.



Checking out the displays about Egypt and France were (from left) Pam Baker, Ella Warren, Dionshay Baker, Mercedes Hester, and Debra Hester.



Third-grade teacher Megan Harrison (right) looked over the China exhibit with (from left) Pamela, Joseph, and Shawn Sands.



March Price Busters!

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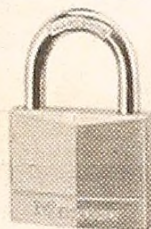
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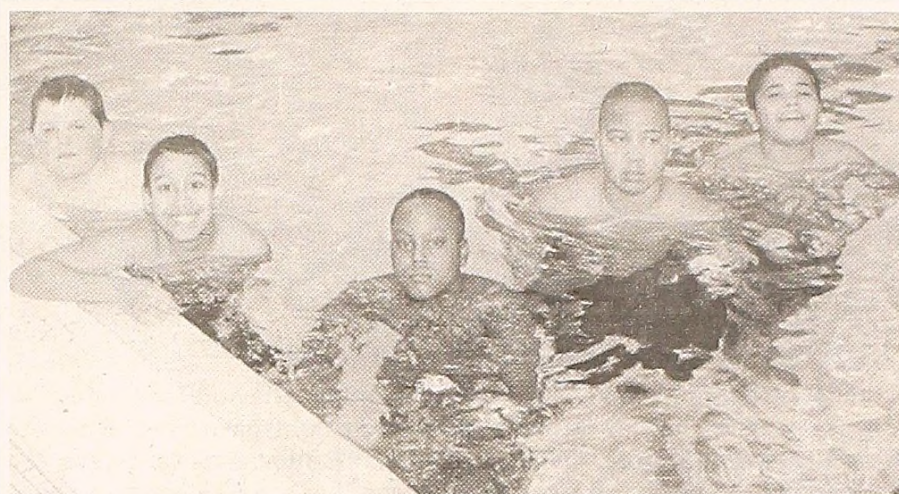
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Cory Sleepover



Cory Elementary students like (from left) Thomas Ingram, Javon Carlock, Willie Sledge, Corey Wilson, and Steven Pratt enjoyed an opportunity to swim in the Romulus High School pool during their school's recent Sixth-grade Sleepover Party.



Sixth-grade girls who went swimming at the Cory Sixth-grade Sleepover included: (from left) front – Macee Logerstedt and Faith Rhinehart; middle – Ruby Chacon and Cheyenne Chapman; back – Emily Tobý, Chyanne Ballard, Nakeya Pinkston, Neelege Watson, Kanisha Wallen, and Bianca Wise.

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Parents of Wick Students Get Helpful Tips



A recent presentation given by Guidance Center behavioral specialist Lisa Horvath (back, second from left) and fitness expert Sheila Stasak (back, second from right) gave a wealth of helpful tips to parents of students attending Wick Elementary School. Among those who attended the event were: (from left) front – Dyanna Smith, Toinette Armour, Wilma Tomlinson, Geneva Matthews, Lywanda Williams, and Rayshel Rodgers; back – Sandy MacDonald (social worker), Kim Amato, Jacinda Jones, Gwen Payne, Sam Bonam, Leticia Bonam, Heather Penny, Mary Binkiewicz, and Thomas Kuderik (trustee, Romulus Board of Education).

Cory Staff Meets with Author Bob Sornson



Cory Elementary staff members met with author Bob Sornson (front, second from right) to discuss important points from his book, *Creating Classrooms Where Teachers Love To Teach And Students Love To Learn*. Among those attending the program were: (from left) front – Laurie James, Tammy Hartley, and Sally [Name]; back – Monica Harris, Ronda Askew, Dorothy West (principal), Kara Taylor, and Rob Baty.

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Community Calendar

- **"Second Monday" Book Club** – Meetings of the Romulus Public Library's new Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road, south of Goddard) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Advance registration is not required; just read the suggested book, then drop in. Copies of the suggested books will be available at the library, or library staff members can assist you in getting an interlibrary loan. Books planned for upcoming discussions include: *Dearly Devoted Dexter* (a mystery) by Jeff Lindsay (March 13); *The Great Gatsby* (classic fiction) by F. Scott Fitzgerald (April 10); *Beautiful Jim Key* (nonfiction) by Mim Eichler Rivas (May 8); and *Chocolat* (fiction) by Joanne Harris. For information, call 734-942-7589.
- **Bird Fair at RHS** – The Rainbow Feathers Bird Club will host its ninth annual Bird Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 19, at Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road, just north of I-94). The event will feature exotic birds from around the world, as well as the sale of birds and related products, a craft show, and raffles. Admission is \$3 for adults; kids 12 and under get in free. Proceeds from the event will help RFBC rescue/relocate unwanted exotic and pet birds. For more info, call Dave or Tammy (734-422-5981).
- **BINGO!** – Enjoy an evening of BINGO! at Romulus Progressive Club (11580 Ozga) on Sunday, March 19, from 4 to 11 p.m. Highlights of the event will include dinner, door prizes, and 50/50 raffles. *Must be 18 to play.* For more information, call Jim VanMeer (734-941-3044).
- **Cabaret Dancing** – Learn cabaret-style dancing through the Romulus Recreation Department's 12-week class, to be held in the gymnasium at Halecreek Elementary (16200 Harrison) from 7 to 9 p.m. each Monday from March 20 through May 30. Participants should wear comfortable clothing. No partners required. Cost is \$8 per class or \$60 for the course; no preregistration necessary. For more information, call 734-941-8665.
- **Wagner To Discuss Emergency Management at Chamber Luncheon** – Philip Wagner, Deputy Fire Chief for the City of Romulus, will be the guest speaker at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce's next business luncheon, to be held at noon on Tuesday, March 21, at the Hilton Garden Inn (31800 Smith, Romulus). Tickets (\$13 for members; \$15 for nonmembers) must be purchased in advance. For more information, contact the Chamber by phone (734-326-4290) or e-mail (info@romuluschamber.org).
- **Spring Flea Market** – St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (corner of Ellis and Craig streets, New Boston), will host a Spring Flea Market from March 30–April 1 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Everyone welcome!
- **Preschoolers Reading Fair** – The third annual Romulus Preschoolers Reading Fair will be held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 South Wayne Road, south of Goddard, next to City Hall) on Saturday, April 1, from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will feature community leaders reading stories to preschoolers as well as parenting videos, souvenirs from Romulus firefighters, and refreshments. Applying for a library card (or showing one) gives families the chance to win raffle prizes, including weekend hotel getaways and educational toys. Everything is free and open to all family members. For more information, call the Romulus Community Schools Community Education Department at 734-532-1953.
- **Spring Craft Show** – Romulus Progressive Hall (11580 Ozga) will host a Spring Craft Show on Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featured for sale will be hand-painted items, jewelry, baskets, wreaths, candles, purses, woodcraft items, candy, Avon, Mary Kay, Country Crafts, and much, much more. Refreshments will also be available. For more info, call 941-3044.
- **Bowl-A-Rama Benefits Animal Shelter** – Romulus Lanes will host a 9-Pin No-Tap Tournament at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, to benefit the Friends of the Romulus Animal Shelter Fund. Handicap doubles and singles events will be scheduled. Cost is \$25 per person per event or \$40 per person for two events. (Ladies' and men's mystery games, snacks, and cash prizes included.) Other highlights will include a 50/50 raffle and other jackpots. Early registration is strongly urged, since space is limited. For rules and/or other info, call Romulus Lanes (734-941-6200), Councilman Bill Wadsworth (941-0616), Joe Ozog (941-3466), or Frank Ayers (734-729-7467).

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907

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When Phyllis Adkins, the principal at Romulus Middle School, gave a buzz cut to eighth-grade science teacher Michael Madsen, it brought big smiles to a lot of young faces. Madsen had promised his students that if they bettered last year's eighth-grade MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) science score by at least 12 points, he would cut his hair. The students raised the score by **24 points**, and cheered each stroke of their principal's clippers!

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CLASSES NOW UNDERWAY

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, senior citizens program coordinator for the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column.

(For more information about events at the new Romulus Senior Center, which is located at 36525 Bibbins, please call 734-955-4120.)

"My Medicare Matters"

Mobile education teams will be at the Romulus Tower apartment building (36500 Bibbins) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, to provide senior citizens with one-on-one assistance in using Medicare's Web site to sign up for/change their new prescription drug plan. Service coordinator Linda Roth asserts that the program in no way promotes any specific health plan or any individual company's product.

Participants should come prepared with all pertinent paperwork.

For more information, call Roth at 734-247-4494.

Free Tax Preparation

From 12:30 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday through April 12, the Romulus Senior Center will be offering free tax preparation services (by appointment only) to low-income Romulus seniors (age 60 and older). The service will also be available at Romulus Tower.

A list of materials which must be brought to the appointment will be provided at the time of registration. These materials will include:

- W-2 forms,
- Unemployment compensation statements,
- SSA-1099 interest/dividends statements,
- 1099R pension/annuity statements,
- forms showing income taxes paid,
- last year's tax forms.

For more information, or to make an appointment for tax service, call or stop in at the Center.

St. Patrick's Day Potluck

The Romulus Senior Center will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a potluck dinner on Friday, March 24, beginning at 1 p.m. Prepare your favorite dish to accompany the Center's delicious corned beef, then don a costume (prizes for greenest outfit, funniest headpiece, and most festive T-shirt) and join the fun, which will include a showing of *Sister Act* and *Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit*.

Be sure to call ahead to reserve your seat and register your dish.

Help with Signing Up for Plan D

Linda Peak, case manager for the Wayne-Metropolitan Community Action Agency, will be at the Romulus Senior Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month to assist senior citizens in signing up for Medicare Plan D. (Next date: March 22.)

Seniors planning to consult with Peak should bring their Social Security and Medicare cards, a list of medications, proof of income, and any paperwork they have received about Plan D or the Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP).

Shopping Trips

Romulus seniors can ride the Center's van, free of charge, for shopping at Farmer Jack/Wal-Mart (Monday, March 13, 9:30 a.m.); Kmart (Monday, March 20, 9:30 a.m.), and/or Family Dollar (Monday, March 27, 10 a.m.). Seating is limited; advance registration is required.

Special Trips

Special trips planned by the Romulus Senior Center include:

- **Casino Windsor** (March 16),
- **Kewadin (Sault Ste. Marie)** (March 28-29),
- **Windsor Raceway and Slots** (April 6),
- **Grand Victoria Resort and Casino** (April 10-11),
- **Motor City Casino** (April 20), and
- **Windsor Raceway and Slots** (May 31).

Sign up at the Center.

Regular Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs include:

- Ceramics (Mondays, 12:30 p.m.),
- Bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- Bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- Fun Night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- Game Day (Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m.).

Walk for Your Health

Ride the Senior Center's van to Wayne County Community College's Western Campus each Monday and Friday at 12:30 p.m. for an hour of safe indoor walking at your own pace. Sign up at the Center to reserve your seat.

The Center strongly urges anyone considering a change in his/her exercise program to consult a doctor beforehand.

Hot Lunches

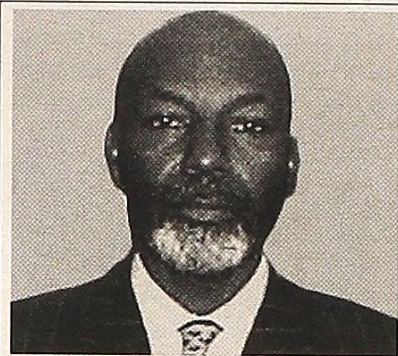
The Romulus Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. each weekday for a donation of 1.75. Call at least 24 hours in advance for a reservation. □

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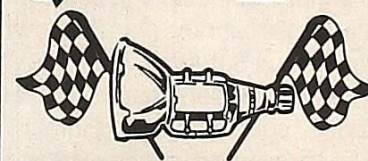
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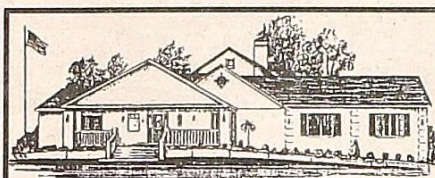
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Obituaries

Ruby M. Dugan

Ruby M. Dugan of Belleville, Michigan, passed away on Tuesday, February 21, 2006, at the age of 85.

The native of Allen Park, Michigan, was born on Thursday, September 16, 1920.

Ruby — a retired teacher who had worked in the Romulus Community Schools — was a member of Tri Sigma Sorority and the Romulus Literary Club. She enjoyed working crossword puzzles and reading.

Surviving Ruby are her son, Ray (Paulette) Dugan (Romulus, MI); a daughter, Cathy J. Dugan (Fountain Hill, AZ); and 2 granddaughters, Mary K. Webster and Shannon M. Hamby.

Among those who preceded her in passing were her husband, Harold Dugan; her parents, Alfred and Eva F. (Strausner) Pilon; a brother, Ray Dugan; and 3 sisters, Lylie Lewis, Marcella Murphy, and Hazel Pilon.

A funeral service was held on Friday, February 24, at St. Stephen Catholic Church (New Boston, MI), with Father Alexander Wyrwal officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

Memorial tributes to the American Heart Association would be greatly appreciated by the Dugan family.

Mitchell Fabinski

Mitchell Fabinski died in Mackinac County, Michigan, on Monday, February 20, 2006, at the age of 55.

The native of Romulus, Michigan, was born to Mitchell Sr. and Elizabeth Fabinski on Wednesday, November 29, 1950.

Mitchell was educated in Romulus, where he graduated from high school. On May 29, 1971, he married the former Bessie May Cupps, and the couple made their home in Alanson, Michigan, before moving to Texas in 1982.

Mitchell had worked for both Rohrer Plumbing and Heating and Haggard's Plumbing and Heating, and also worked on the Crooked River dredging crew before he and his wife became team truckers, traveling throughout the country.

The member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles (Gaylord, MI) and former member of the Alanson Fire Department was an avid fisherman who also enjoyed hunting.

Surviving Mitchell are 5 brothers,

Kenneth (Detroit, MI), Brian (Romulus), Darrell (Belleville, MI), Carl (Commerce, MI), and Keith Fabinski (Whitehouse, TX); 7 stepchildren, John Greenier (Alanson), Darcy Greenier (Alanson), Dana Greenier (Alanson) and his fiancée Kelly, Sue VanAllen (Harbor Springs, MI), Debbie Greenier (Alanson), Jennifer Greenier (Pellston, MI) and her fiancé Chris Fochtman; and Melissa (Lee) Schreier (Swartz Creek, MI); 24 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren, as well as his girlfriend, Frances Fuhst (Vanderbilt, TX).

Among those who predeceased him were his wife, Bessie, who passed away in 2000, and a brother, Edward Fabinski.

A funeral service was held on Friday, February 24, at Schiller Funeral Home (Harbor Springs), with Associate Pastor Ronald Goodman (Stutsmanville Chapel) officiating. Interment was in the Friendship Township Cemetery.

Memorial donations to the family would be greatly appreciated.

Patsy E. Holton

Patsy E. Holton of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, February 25, 2006, at the age of 75.

The native of Dekalb County, Tennessee — born on Sunday, May 25, 1930 — enjoyed gardening, canning, attending church, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Surviving Patsy are 2 sons, Kenneth R. (Teresa) O'Conner and Jeffery L. (Carol) Holton (all of Inkster, MI); 2 daughters, Deborah J. (Keith) Varga (Romulus) and Suetta Holton (Superior Township, MI); a brother, Jackie (Elizabeth) O'Conner (Baxter, TN); a sister, Ollie (James) Ray (Baxter); 18 grand-

children; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Among those who predeceased her were her husband, Marvin Holton (who passed away in 2002); 2 sons, Jimmy D. (2005) and Olin O'Conner (1992); a daughter, Carolyn S. Kelly (1979); her parents, Joseph and Ocia (Cardwell) O'Conner; 2 brothers, Obile and Joe O'Conner; and 2 sisters, Ova Marie and Martha J. O'Conner.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, March 1, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Reverend Frank Howard (Living Rock Church, Romulus) officiating. Interment was at Cherry Grove Cemetery (Clare, MI). □

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